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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 DLOS-09
NRC-05 SAS-02 SMS-02 /179 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 11738

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RW/MDW,
FIFTH ROUND, THIRD MEETING, JULY 27, 1978

REFS: (A) GENEVA 11593, (B) GENEVA 11450.

RW MESSAGE NO. 5

1. SUMMARY. AT THIRD MEETING OF ROUND FIVE, HEAD OF USDEL REITERATED THAT SOVIET-PROPOSED "PARALLEL" NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUCED-RADIATION WEAPONS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE, OFFERED PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON RW ARTICLES PRESENTED BY SOVDEL ON JULY 24, AND NOTED THAT THE GAP BETWEEN US AND USSR POSITIONS ON VERIFICATION HAD NOT DIMINISHED. SOVDEL STATED THEY WOULD STUDY US STATEMENT AND, IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TONING DOWN OF THEIR PROPOSAL, CALLED FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUCED-RADIATION WEAPONS "ALONG" RATHER THAN "IN PARALLEL" WITH RW. END SUMMARY.

2. THIRD MEETING OF ROUND FIVE OF US-USSR WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS HELD AT SOVIET MISSION ON JULY 28.

3. AMB. FISHER, HEAD OF USDEL, IN BRIEF STATEMENT, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) INDUCED-RADIATION WEAPONS. FISHER STRESSED THAT THE US COULD NOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR CONDUCTING

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NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUCED-RADIATION WEAPONS "IN PARALLEL" WITH RW NEGOTIATIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT RADIATION IS ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO SINGLE OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT ANY CATEGORY OF SUCH WEAPONS. HE ALSO NOTED THE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN LINKING NEGOTIATIONS ON A SUBJECT NOT DISCUSSED IN ANY DEPTH WITH RW NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE RELATIVELY FAR ADVANCED.

(B) SOVIET ARTICLES OF JULY 24 (TRANSMITTED REF A). FISHER NOTED THAT THE CHANGES THE SOVIETS HAD MADE IN US ELEMENTS OF MAY 4 WERE UNDER STUDY, BUT THAT NOT ALL OF THEM APPEARED EQUALLY SUBSTANTIVE. BY WAY OF PRELIMINARY COMMENT, HE POINTED OUT THAT: (1) SOVIET SUBSTITUTION OF "USE" FOR "DISSEMINATE" IN ELEMENT (ARTICLE) II DID NOT COVER THE ESSENTIAL CONCEPT OF DELIVERY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL TO TARGET; (2) THE EXCLUSION CLAUSE IN PARA. 2 OF SOVIET ARTICLE II INTRODUCED A NEW NOTION WHICH REQUIRED CAREFUL STUDY (THIS WAS ALLUSION TO MATERIAL RESULTING FROM USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS); (3) THE IMPLCIATIONS OF THE SOVIET DEFINITION OF THE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL DEALT WITH IN SOVIET ARTICLE III WERE ALSO BEING EXAMINED; (4) SOVIETS SHOULD REEXAMINE OUR FORMULATION "SPECIFIED IN" IN ELEMENT 4 SINCE PHRASE "CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS" IN SOVIET ARTICLE IV LEFT A LOOPHOLE; AND (5) ALTHOUGH SOVIET ARTICLE V USED THE LANGUAGE OF US ELEMENT 3 OF AUGUST 29, 1977, IT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEST NOT TO HAVE ANY REFERENCE TO RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THIS CONTEXT. AFTER NOTING THAT ISSUE OF FORM IN WHICH JOINT INITIATIVE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO CCD REMAINED OPEN, FISHER OPINED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON FIRST FIVE ELEMENTS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REMAINING DIFFERENCES COULD ALSO BE RESOLVED.

(C) VERIFICATION. FISHER STATED THAT, IN CONTRAST, THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON VERIFICATION WAS AS WIDE AS EVER. FISHER STRESSED US WOULD NOT ACCEPT VERIFICATION MEASURES ADVERSELY AFFECTING ITS NATIONAL SECURITY, ADDING THAT THE US WOULD NOT ACCEPT A VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENT FOR RW CONVENTION SIMPLY BECAUSE THAT ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN FOUND ADEQUATE FOR SOME OTHER CONVENTION. HE URGED THE SOVIETS TO REEXAMINE US PROPOSAL FOR CHALLENGE INSPECTIONS.

4. AMB. LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVDEL) STATED USSR WOULD STUDY US STATEMENT. HE AGREED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON ARTICLES I-V AND THOUGHT THAT RW NEGOTIATIONS WERE APPROACHING THEIR CONCLUDING PHASE. REGARDING SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUCED-RADIATION WEAPONS (REF B), LIKHATCHEV CEASED USING THE TERM "IN

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PARALLEL" AND TALKED INSTEAD ABOUT CONDUCTING ONE SET OF
NEGOTIATIONS "ALONG WITH" THE OTHER.

5. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 3.

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